



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Texas County, Oklahoma
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area
(or Location of Position if Type III): Junction of US Highways 412 and 54, Guymon, Oklahoma 73942
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ☐ Moderate Priority ☒ High Priority ☐ Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☒ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☒ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☒ Swine
☐ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☒ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☐ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- ☐ Food Safety
☐ Public Health
☐ Epidemiology
☐ Other: _____

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Texas County is the center county of the Oklahoma panhandle and the second largest county in the state. The population is 21,000, and its economy is largely based on farming and cattle and swine production. It is one of the top producing counties in the U. S. for wheat, cattle and hogs. The county seat and largest town is Guymon, which has a population of 12,000. Amarillo, Texas is a one and one half hour drive for more shopping and entertainment than Guymon offers. Veterinarians in this area provide care for 260,000 cattle. The majority of are stocker and feeder cattle, but there are about 11,500 breeding beef cattle. The objective of having a food animal practitioner in this area is to ensure that the food animal industry is properly served. The swine population in the county is slightly over 1,000,000, with most of those being within the commercial swine industry. Veterinarians in small communities like this have an opportunity to be a large part of the community, which can enhance their life, as well as the lives of the other citizens. The veterinarian who is awarded this grant must dedicate at least 60% of his/her practice to food animals.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Two veterinarians have performed the majority of the food animal practice in this area since the mid 1970s. They both are in their sixties. A younger veterinarian has been doing some mobile food animal work but is moving to another part of the state. To be successful, the recipient of this award must work hard, get involved in the community, and be willing to take after hours and emergency calls. A fair percentage of the practice may be with corporate feedlots and sow operations, so he/she must have a professional, businesslike manner while at the same time be able to communicate and connect with the rural people he/she will interact with in day to day living. The successful candidate for this position must be willing and able to practice on horses and companion animals as well as food animals. There is a strong show swine presence in the county. This practitioner will have to work with the young people who raise and show cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. It is very important to have food animal practitioners in areas of high cattle and swine density such as this as a first line of defense to recognize and report reportable diseases.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

The two main practices in the county have been stable for over 30 years so there have not been many efforts to recruit new veterinarians. One practice is a husband/wife veterinary team. There is a relatively new practice that is almost exclusively a small animal practice. Due to the advancing age of the major practitioners, they are now beginning to search for younger veterinarians to come in to the practices and eventually take them over.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

As previously stated, this area is one of the most highly concentrated areas in the United States for cattle and swine. Introduction of a highly contagious or foreign animal disease in this area could not only cause serious loss of livestock life and productivity, but would also affect the economy of the local area, the state, and the United States as a whole. It is imperative that we have veterinarians who devote a large percentage of their time to food animal practice to act as primary sentries.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

60 %

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

☒ By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

☒ By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Rod Hall, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food &
Forestry

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.